Hennock, Maine

History of our Farm on South Road, Hennock, Maine:

Almost one hundred and fifty years ago, Thomas Pingree, of Henniker, N.H., settled in Hennock, Me., and purchased land and built a cabin where the 10-room Farm House now stands. He brought his family as far as Heads Corner in East Hennock, and they remained there with friends until Thomas hewed a trail down to where he built the cabin. In the shed there is a large flat stone where he built the fireplace to warm the cabin and cook the meals. According to the original deed, dated July 3rd, 1801, Thomas Pingree purchased 100 hundred acres of land bordering on Granger Pond in Hennock, for the sum of "90 Pounds", or $300.00. Hennock was at that time part of "York County", of the Commonwealth of Mass, Watermarked into the deed.

In 1814 he purchased an adjoining tract for the sum of $150.00; another tract of 122 acres for the sum of $255.00; in 1817 another tract of 100 acres for $200.00; and as the years went by, still more acres of land. Thomas Pingree raised 14 sons to till these acres, and some of his property still remains in his descendents' hands. As closely as we can determine he built himself a new and much larger house in 1816.
With 10 large rooms – which now stands on what is known as South Road in Henmarke. This house was owned by the Ringree descendant for many years – then one of the Ringree girls married a John Regan and she died and he had the place mortgaged so much, he had to give it up to Arthur Jack who held the mortgages. Alvina and Jesse Kenison wanted a farm to raise their family of (3) children, Rachel, Olive and Lawrence and they owned a new home in Henmarke Village. Arthur Jack traded the farm and 30 acres of land for the Kenison’s new home. That was in 1935 and they owned it until 1947 and sold it to George L and his son Kenneth Kenison that lost their home in the Haley Neighborhood in Brownfield, Maine the Fall of the 1947 Forest Fire. They owned the farm until 1958 and in the meantime George L the Father died so Kenneth the son and his Mother Flavine sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Foster Leland and Kenneth and his Mother went to California for a few months. Mr. and Mrs. Leland are still here as of this date, March 25, 1973.

Many alterations have been made from time to time – but the spirit of this home still prevails. The bedroom floors up stairs were all hand hewn.
One of the floors was ship-lapped, that is they cut the boards the shape of the tree and in laying it they laid a small end and the next board they laid the large end beside the small end. The Woodwork in this room was painted the Old Red Milk Paint. The boards at the top of the front Stairs in the upper Hall were 2 1/2 to 3 ft. wide, all hand hewn. The finish was all hand hewn, the corner Posts in living room were the same. Some of the original Window glass with its Waves and large bubbles, can still be seen. Many of the Panes have a weathered, purplish color. The Foundation Walls are of Split Stone and double thickness. The Cellar floor is paved with huge granite split stone and (2) large stone arches that held the Chimney. One on each end of the Cellar. We used them to store Vegetables and potatoes in Winter. Some hard working men spent 15 days splitting these stones and was paid $15.00 for his work by Thomas Pingree. Pingree's taxes on all his property in 1836 amounted to $3.44. According to a Contract between Thomas Pingree and Timothy G. Hadley, dated January 26, 1835, Thomas agreed to load 20 bales for said Hadley with 'leinen' and '3 men' and furnish all necessary sheds...
Chains, and Axes, and board his oxen and men and begin as soon as Necessary camping be prepared and works as long as sledding continues good and the said Hadley agrees on his part to be at all the expenses of building the camps and to pay said Pingree (in June next), five shillings per day for each person and each pair of oxen for each and every day that they work from the day they start from Home until they finish work in Woods. In September of 1836 Pingree indentured Marshall Mrs Linus, a pauper child, son of John Mrs Linus, an inhabitant of the "said Hiram, Maine" as an apprentice and agreed to teach the boy the "Art trade" or Mystery of farming, the said Marshall after the manner of an apprentice to dwell with and serve the said Thomas Pingree from the day of the date thereof until the first day of January, which will be in the year of our Lord 1839, at which time the said apprentice if he be living, will be "14 years old" and the said Pingree, on his part, doth hereby promise, covenant and agree to teach and instruct the said apprentice or cause him to be taught and instructed in the Art, Trade or Calling of a Farmer by the best way or means he can; and
Also to teach and instruct the said apprentice, to cause him to be taught and instructed to read and write, so far as the Winter school in his district will go, if the said apprentice be capable to learn; and shall well and faithfully find and provide for the said apprentice, good and sufficient, meat, drink, clothing and lodging and other necessaries fit and convenient for such an apprentice during the term aforesaid, at the Kennetunk Hotel and Stage House, Mr. Pingree spent 25 cents for tea, $.75 cents for supper and lodging, and 25 cents for housekeeping. N.M. Towle was then Proprietor of the Hotel. Abijah Garham invented a Stump pulling machine and for the sum of $50.00 Thomas Pingree acquired the full and exclusive right of making, constructing, using and vending to others to be used, Abijah Garham's improved Stump Machine. Within the Town of Kennebunk in the County and State aforesaid; in 1838 Thomas Pingree constructed another house, close to his own, and paid Leonard Henry $33.75 for 2 days work on the house, grinding, painting 116 light sash, one pitchfork, fifteen days work at painting and for a helper for this latter work. Another expenditure incurred in the Construction of
the house was $7.19 for one hundred and fifteen pounds
115 lbs. of nails. Speaking of price at that time, 100 lbs.
of Codfish cost $4.00, 6 lbs. Tobacco $1.00, 10 lbs. Coffee $1.00.
A barrel of Salt Pork $24.00. He spent 88 cents for
18 China Plates, 67 cents for 2 China Chambers,
$4.00 for 4 bushels of Rock Salt, $3.50 for 6 gallons
of Molasses, $2.33 for 4 hogs, $1.73 for 3 scythes,
$11.75 for 28 lbs of Leather and $1.33 for one looking
Glass. Walter Cony, dealer in Furniture at all
descriptions, looking glass, Leather Beds, Mattresses,
Willow and Wooden Ware, at C. No. 19 Exchange St.
Portland, Maine, was the merchant. Again he paid
"Smith & Boston" Dealers in Furniture in Bridgton,
Maine, $12.00 for a Bureau, $3.50 for a 3½ ft. Table,
$5.00 for 2 wash tables, $6.50 for 2 Bedsteads,
$8.00 for 2 Chairs, $1.00 for one Rocking Chair. At that
time 11 gallons of New England Rum cost $8.50.

At times, the hand of the Law rested on Pingeé's
shoulders. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Year SS.
To Thomas Pingeé of Newmark, Maine, in the County
of Oxford, Yeoman - Greetings. We Command you
that you appear at our next Court of Common Pleas,
to be held at Alfred within and for our County
then and there to answer to James Woodman and James Woodman Jr. both of Buxton in our said County, Yeoman, in a plea of covenant broken as is Namely fully set forth in our Writ of attachment, which plea the said Yeoman commenced against you, to be heard and tried at the said Court and your goods or estate are attached to the value of $1,040.00 for security to satisfy the judgment which the said Yeoman may recover upon the aforesaid trial. Fail not of appearance at your peril. That was in 1814 Oxford S.S. Kennebec, Maine July 5th 1882. This day Thomas Pingree appeared before me Cyrus Ingalls, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace of the County of Oxford and complained of himself of breaking the Peace with Nathaniel Widden of said State of Maine and paid a fine of $1.00 to said State. Said assault committed on July 4, 1822 in said Town of Kennebec. Cyrus Ingalls, Justice of Peace, in 1827 Thomas Pingree paid William P. Hessenden a total of $36.70 for legal services involved in a dispute between himself and a Mr. Warren and another between Daniel Pingree and a Mr. Whiting. His accounts were
Many and varied, but two more interesting payments were to a Mr. Brackett $2.25 for schooling, Theodore Pingree the present year to a
Mr. Gibbon, Post master $2.62 cents for postage on
Margining Sum from February 26th 1840 to February
26th 1841. Thomas Pingree passed away in 1845
and he rests here on the farm he cleared.

He must have loved this place for no man spends
so large a part of his lifes blood and till upon
a piece of ground without it's becoming a part
of him. His resting here in the Family Cemetery
here on the farm is as it should be. It is a
credit to his descendants that they maintain
this family Cemetery.

Alvina and Jesse Kenison
-owned this farm from 1935 to 1947

Written and donated by Alvina Kenison